

REMARKS

The Examiner in the Official Action has maintained the rejection of the claims for the reasons set forth in paragraph 2. In response to applicant's previously filed response, dated September 17, 2002, the Examiner now states "the Examiner submits that the St. Louis Dispatch Article (1993) is now relied upon for disclosing a limited edition postage stamp." In this regard, applicant has amended the claims to clearly set forth that the present invention is directed to postal stamp. As applicant has clearly pointed and described, a postal stamp is something that is affixed, for example, to an envelope for providing the cost of the official postal for delivering of the mail through the postal service.

Claims 12, 23 and 34 clearly set forth that there is provided an indicia which is not visible under normal viewing conditions for confirming that the limited edition official postal stamp is a valid limited edition postal stamp. The St. Louis Dispatch article is not directed to an official postal stamp but instead directed to a water fowl stamp. These are typically hunting stamp that are used for hunting and not used for official postage. Since this is a Governor's stamp out of the state of Missouri, Department of Conservation, it could not be an official postage as official postage is provided by the U.S. Government and not by the state. Thus, the St. Louis Dispatch article could not and does not teach being directed to an official postal stamp as claimed by applicants. Furthermore, there is nothing that teaches that the indicia on the stamp is not visible under normal viewing conditions. Thus, the primary reference now relied upon by the Examiner could not and does not teach the invention as taught and claimed by applicant.

With regard to the Gasper et al. patent, as previously discussed, this is not directed to an official postal stamp as taught and claimed by applicant. The Gasper et al. reference is directed to providing micro dots which are used to determine whether or not a document may be printed. The Gasper et al. reference is not directed to stamp or a postal stamp in any regard. The statement by applicant was referred to by the Examiner is that the Gasper et al. reference is not directed to a stamp, and therefore could not remotely be directed to a limited edition postal stamp which is even further remote from the Gasper et al. reference. It is respectfully submitted that the Gasper et al. reference is of little relevance to the present invention as it is simply directed to the use of micro dots to prevent

printing and is not in any way directed to a stamp as taught and claimed by applicant.

In view of the foregoing applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

The summary of the invention has been amended to correspond to the claims presently on file.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page(s) is captioned **"Version with Markings to Show Changes Made"**.

Respectfully submitted,



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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

In the Specification:

The paragraphs beginning on page 3, line 31 through page 4, line 14 have been deleted.

The paragraph beginning on page 4, line 15 has been amended as set forth below:

In accordance with yet another aspect of the present invention there is provided a limited edition official postal stamp comprising:

The paragraph beginning on page 4, line 17 has been amended as set forth below:

a first indicia identifying the limited edition official postal stamps as being a limited edition;

The paragraph beginning on page 4, line 19 has been amended as set forth below:

a second indicia which is not visible under normal viewing conditions for confirming that the limited edition stamp is a valid limited edition official postal stamp.

The paragraph beginning on page 4, line 22 has been amended as set forth below:

In yet still another aspect of the present invention there is provided a sheet of limited edition official postal stamps, each stamp comprising:

The paragraph beginning on page 4, line 24 has been amended as set forth below:

a first indicia identifying the limited edition official postal stamps as being a limited edition;

The paragraph beginning on page 4, line 26 has been amended as set forth below:

a second indicia which is not visible under normal viewing conditions for confirming that the limited edition official postal stamp is a valid limited edition postal stamp.

The paragraph on page 4, after line 28 is new.

In the Claims:

Claims 12, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34 have been amended as set forth below:

12.(Three Times Amended) A limited edition official postal stamp comprising:

a first indicia identifying said limited edition official postal stamp as being a limited edition, wherein said first indicia comprises a unique ID that identifies said limited indicia stamp as being one out of a predetermined number;

a second indicia which is not visible under normal viewing conditions for confirming that said limited edition official postal stamp is a valid limited edition official postal stamp, said second indicia is not capable of being scanned for reproduction.

14.(Twice Amended) A limited edition official postal stamp according to claim 12 wherein said first indicia is visible.

18.(Twice Amended) A limited edition official postal stamp according to claim 12 wherein said second indicia is made using an ink that can be seen when viewed under UV or infrared light.

19.(Once Amended) A limited edition official postal stamp according to claim 12 wherein a third indicia is provided for identifying a printer or a location where said limited edition official postal stamp was printed.

20.(Once Amended) A limited edition official postal stamp according to claim 19 wherein said third indicia is not visible under normal viewing conditions.

21.(Once Amended) A limited edition official postal stamp according to claim 20 wherein said third indicia is not capable of being scanned for reproduction.

22.(Once Amended) A limited edition official postal stamp according to claim 21 wherein said third indicia is made using an ink that can be seen when viewed under UV or infrared light.

23.(Three Times Amended) A sheet of limited edition official postal stamp, each stamp comprising:

a first indicia identifying said limited edition official postal stamp as being a limited edition, wherein said first indicia comprises a unique ID that identifies said limited indicia stamp as being one out of a predetermined number;

a second indicia which is not visible under normal viewing conditions for confirming that said limited edition official postal stamp is a valid limited edition official postal stamp, said second indicia is not capable of being scanned for reproduction.

25.(Twice Amended) A sheet of limited edition official postal stamps according to claim 23 wherein said first indicia is visible.

29.(Three Times Amended) A sheet of limited edition official postal stamps according to claim 23 wherein said second indicia is made using an ink that can be seen when viewed under UV or infrared light.

30.(Once Amended) A sheet of limited edition official postal stamps according to claim 23 wherein a third indicia is provided for identifying a printer or a location where said limited edition official postal stamp was printed.

31.(Once Amended) A sheet of limited edition official postal stamps according to claim 30 wherein said third indicia is not visible under normal viewing conditions.

32.(Once Amended) A sheet of limited edition official postal stamps according to claim 31 wherein said third indicia is not capable of being scanned for reproduction.

33.(Once Amended) A sheet of limited edition official postal stamps according to claim 32 wherein said third indicia is made using an ink that can be seen when viewed under UV or infrared light.

34.(Once Amended) A limited edition official postal stamp comprising:
a first indicia identifying said limited edition official postal stamp as being a limited edition, wherein said first indicia comprises a unique ID;
a second indicia which is not visible under normal viewing conditions for confirming that said limited edition official postal stamp is a valid limited edition official postal stamp, said second indicia is not capable of being scanned for reproduction.

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